

VIETNAM COURIER

Information Weekly — E.O. : 46 Tran Hung Dao Street, Hanoi — Democratic Republic of Viet Nam

December 4
1967
No 140
4th Year

IN 19 DAYS OF RELENTLESS ATTACKS AND COUNTER-ATTACKS OF THE P.L.A.F. AT Dac To THE ENEMY HAD:

3,500 MEN
(Including 2,800 G.I.s)
KILLED, WOUNDED OR CAPTURED

**7 BATTALIONS (Including 5 American)
WIPED OUT OR DECIMATED**

**U.S. PARA BRIGADE 173
PUT OUT OF ACTION**

**32 Planes and Helicopters Downed or
Destroyed on the Ground, 8 Cannons and
10 Tanks and Armoured Cars Destroyed**



Above: — An assault of the P.L.A.F. fighters
Below: — Corpses of G.I.s of Para Brigade 173
litter at the foot of Hill 875



The P.L.A.F. Control Tan Canh Urban Centre, Overrun the Puppet "Special Forces" Base Camp, and Pound Nearly All Enemy's Bases in Dac To Region

DAC TO and Tan Canh are two major entrenched camps of the U.S. and puppet forces lying close together in a narrow valley among high mountains, forming a defence complex at the northern entrance of the Western High Plateau. In view of their strategic position they constitute a defence system to guard the western side of Quang Nam and Quang Ngai provinces and a corridor defending the U.S. — puppet military subsector in Kon Tum town. The two camps stretch about 4 km along Highway 14.

In the recent Summer-Autumn campaign, after Brigade 1 of U.S. Infantry Division 4 was battered [June 1967] the U.S. commanders sent Para Brigade 173 from Eastern Nam Bo to reinforce Dac To. But this brigade itself took heavy losses in its attack. On June 21, 1967 alone, three of its companies were nearly wiped out 12 kilometres southwest of Tan Canh. Dac To being seriously threatened, early in October that year the U.S. troops were forced to launch an

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AMERICAN WITNESSES DENOUNCE MONSTROUS U.S. CRIMES IN VIET NAM

THE Viet Nam News Agency (VNNA) in Viet Nam from 1960 to 1964, Peter McElroy of the 541st Intelligence Unit (staying in Viet Nam from November 1966 to June 1967), and Private David Tack of the 33rd Infantry Regiment (serving in Viet Nam from January 1967 to February 1967) gave evidence of U.S. monstrous crimes they had witnessed or had taken part in in Viet Nam. Their main mission, they declared, had been to train American troops to question and torture South Vietnamese patriots; they had themselves participated in those crimes and had been decorated for them. They confirmed information given by American soldiers against the South Vietnamese people: dismembering, applying of electric shock to the genitals, axing heads, cutting of ears, throwing victims out of flying helicopters... According to them, American troops were allowed to kill prisoners at will, when they deemed it necessary. The witnesses described other U.S. crimes in South Viet Nam: "mopping up" operations, demolition of villages, concentration of the population in camps where they were treated like beasts, fumigating of toxic gas into shelters and poisoning of many old folks, women and children.

They stated that the U.S.

No To the U.N. General Assembly's "Resolution" on the "Korean Question"

ON November 22, 1967, the D.R.V.N. Foreign Ministry issued a statement opposing the "resolution" on the "Korean question" adopted by the U.N. General Assembly at its 22nd session, and expressing full support to the "most positive expression of the November 12, 1967 statement of the People's Democratic Republic of Korea."

"It is the American imperialists that undermine the independence of Korea. For over 20 years, they have been blatantly occupying South Korea, turning it into a new-type colonial and military base, and preparing for a new war against the People's Democratic Republic of Korea, thus threatening peace in Asia and the world."

"The Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam wholeheartedly supports the most positive proposal of the Korean unification committee to the People's Democratic Republic of Korea, to justify their criminal maneuvers to dominate their domination in South Korea. They have been clamouring about an 'infiltration from North Korea' and used odious

means to prevent the representative of the People's Democratic Republic of Korea from taking part in the discussion of its own question at the U.N. General Assembly."

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1967 RAINY SEASON: BIG SUCCESSES OF THE LAO PEOPLE AND THEIR ARMED FORCES

- Over 5,000 Enemy Troops Wiped Out
- 82 Planes Shot Down or Destroyed on the Ground
- 33 War Vessels and Motor Launches Sunk
- 964 Fire-Arms Seized

ACCORDING to the *Pathet Lao* Radio, the High Command of the Lao People's Liberation Army (NPA) on November 22, 1967, issued a communiqué on the big military successes obtained by the Lao people and their armed forces during the 1967 rainy season.

To save their bad situation in the Lao theatre during the 1966-1967 dry season, the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen did their best at the beginning of the last rainy season to step up their aggressive war.

They showed the strong fighting spirit and the many-sided purity of the Lao People's Liberation Army and the Lao National Patriotic Front.

They drove the enemy into a stalemate and aggravated the contradictions among them, undermining the morale of their troops. They gradually started to gradually "defeating" the enemy scheme aimed at stepping up and extending the U.S. aggressive war in Laos.

In conclusion, the communiqué called on the Lao people and their army greatly affected the morale of the puppet army. The determination, resolve, and tenacity of the Lao people, unite more closely, strengthen their determination to fight and win, make progress in every field and go ahead and record bigger successes during the coming dry season.

The communiqué gave the

following appraisal:

"The successes in the last rainy season were resounding, big and comprehensive. They testified to the correctness and the creativeness of the political and military leadership and line of the Lao Patriotic Central Committee.

"They showed the strong fighting spirit and the many-sided purity of the Lao People's Liberation Army and the Lao National Patriotic Front.

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LEIPZIG FILM WEEK

- Foreign Films on Viet Nam Awarded "Gold Dove" and "Silver Dove" Medals
- 3 Vietnamese Ivens Prizes

THE "International Week of short-length and documentary films" in Leipzig ended on November 25, 1967, G.D.R. News Agency (ADN) reported.

Most of the films dealt with the struggle of the Vietnamese people against U.S. aggression. They were warmly welcomed, particularly those of young Vietnamese filmmakers.

Hanoi on December 13 by the well-known Cuban film-director Santiago Alvarez and *Boys and Girls* by the American film-director Jerry Stoll were awarded "Gold Dove" Medals.

The Vietnamese Village by film-makers from various

countries (Alain René, William Klein, Joris Ivens, Agnes Varda, Claude Lelouch, Jean Louis Godard) was awarded a "Silver Dove" Medal.

Three Vietnamese films *Men of Ham Rong* by Le Lam, *Frontier Post* by Vu Trang and *Cu Chi Guerrillas* by the South Viet Nam Liberation Studio were awarded the Joris Ivens Prizes.

Cu Chi Guerrillas was also awarded a Special Prize by the G.D.R. League of Friendship with Other Nations. Captain Le Van Bang, author of *Men of Ham Rong*, obtained a Special Prize from the International Union of Students.

Stern Warning to the U.S. Imperialists and Their Lackeys' Schemed Aggression Against Cambodia

ON November 24, 1967, the Government of Cambodia issued a statement once again rejecting resolutely U.S. slanderous allegations against Cambodia.

The statement has been intensified in the past months. The U.S. press, radio, State Department and War Department have been covering their efforts to this effect. Of course, the Saigon puppet administration and the reactionary ruling class, lackeys of American imperialists, have taken an active part in it. As expected, miners and vultures have been hunting for showbiz themes. Recently, on November 20, AP and the *World of America* spread the news that American respondents had "discovered" a "Viet Cong base" in Cambodia. The next day, a spokesman of the U.S. State Department threateningly expressed the U.S. Government's concern that Cambodia be used as a base for the Viet Cong. On November 14, 1967, on U.S. orders, the Saigon puppet government then circulated a note in the U.S. reporting so-called Cambodian forms of support to the Viet Cong.

It was pointed out that the present slander campaign is a new U.S. manoeuvre to expand the aggressive war to Cambodia. The November 22 statement of the Cambodian Government has stressed that the sustained U.S. campaign against Cambodia's neutralist forces and the U.S. forces in the North are a capital mistake, a mistake of the will-to-settle the Viet Nam problem on military lines. The U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee passed a resolution curbing Johnson's military plans. Nixon complained that the never did a military never to achieve so poor a result. Others said that South Viet Nam and its supporters of President Johnson's policies as sharply divided as ever. (AP Nov. 23)

As to the war, it is regarded as "not alive" and not "dead." Romney accused Johnson of "handling the Viet Nam war with a 'ping pong' strategy." Other placed the U.S. president for the fact that the communiqué of the G.I.s to the war in South Viet Nam and the escalation in the North is a capital mistake, a mistake of the will-to-settle the Viet Nam problem on military lines. The U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee passed a resolution curbing Johnson's military plans. Nixon complained that the never did a military never to achieve so poor a result. Others said that South Viet Nam and its supporters of President Johnson's policies as sharply divided as ever. (AP Nov. 23)

In the American press, these boastful statements have also been exposed. The *New York Times* wrote on Nov. 10 that "The return of President Johnson's top aid from Saigon to Washington for consultation has put the stage for a new chorus of official optimism apparently designed to refute the spreading wave of national pessimism over the prospects in Viet Nam." And said these statements only increased the pessimism over the war.

But all these rattlings cannot mask the gun report of the P.L.A.F. in Loe Ninh, Da Co and other theatres of operations in the South. Was correspondent Peter Arnett, Riverine, in the South, that the U.S. was facing a worse situation than the Viet Cong? He said that it should be continued at all cost till victory even though it would go beyond its present limit. They would go at all costs to the war; they oppose the neutralization of South Viet Nam, violently attack the principle of setting up "enclaves" in the South and over air raids in the North. On their part, Morse, Fulbright, Kennedy, Gruening, advised the cessation of bombing of the North and the setting up of "a zone of the maintenance of U.S. base" up to its present level, the recognition of the South Viet Nam as a state, and the normalization of the South Viet Nam's links with U.S. links.

It is crystal clear that the dispute of the U.S. ruling circles has betrayed their "defeatist" and "pessimistic" mood, and the gloomy prospect of the war, bring its troops home, and the U.S. imperialists Vietnamese people decide their fate themselves.

Carroll, Johnson said that the Viet Nam army had more and more worried the American youth. He expressed the hope that young people round the world will oppose the war.

Michael A. Lindner said that what the U.S. is doing in Viet Nam is immoral. Therefore he has left the army.

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THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN AT A DEADLOCK

JOHNSON is a liar," Johnson is an assassin" were the slogan put out in the actions carried out by American Viet Nam veterans. Two meetings of the legislative body review Johnson's war policy. Two hundred and forty five state governors and congressmen who once supported Johnson have stood by him. But their great concern is that the war waged in South and North Viet Nam is a great loss to bad to worse. That the main subject of the U.S. is to win the circles who do not know how to assess the situation of the war, what is its prospect and how should it be conducted.

Johnson has been taken to task by many congressmen who charged him with concealing the truth about the war, giving

summons. Westmoreland and Bunker to Washington to find ways to push up the shots of protest of over 200 million Americans. A summit talk was convened in which such words as "optimistic," "substantially," "mainly," "improvement," "encouraging" were heard. Westmoreland even had the cheek to declare that all objectives in Viet Nam had been attained while "the enemy is certainly living."

With all that, President Johnson hopes to soothe public opinion. But after hearing his statement, Fulbright declared that "it's a very bad situation" and that "there was little to be encouraged about." (Reuter, 22 Nov. 1967)

CONFUSION AND STALEMATE in the United States

it is a bad turn contrary to what he has anticipated, or bringing it almost to a standstill. In short, the congressmen have said that the war in Viet Nam was the war and that no bright prospect is in sight. Salinger, President Kennedy's ex-counsel, said bluntly that "the current administration leads the American people to fall back in the war reality." (AP, Nov. 19, 1967)

As to the American people, Senator Vance Hartke said: "We do not seem to be able to win." (AP, Nov. 23) Robert Kennedy observed that the war in Viet Nam was the war and that no bright prospect is in sight. Salinger, President Kennedy's ex-counsel, said bluntly that "the current administration leads the American people to fall back in the war reality." (AP, Nov. 19, 1967)

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STRAINED OPTIMISM

TO face this stalemate, President Johnson uses various means: he continues escalating the war while advancing peaceful peace allegations. Of late, he

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2,600 AMERICAN PLANES DOWNED OVER NORTH VIET NAM



Wreckage of the AD-6 downed over Hai Phong on Nov. 25, 1967, the 2,600th plane downed by the North Vietnamese in North Viet Nam

SINCE the day when the American aggressors struck at the Ham Rong bridge (April 3, 1965) never have they lost so many planes as at present. Within 20 days (November 5-25, 1967) this North Vietnamese army has downed 2,600 enemy planes, bringing to 2,600 the number of U.S. aircraft lost over the D.R.V.N.

An outstanding feature of these 20 days is the brilliant exploits of the North Vietnamese army and people's relevant to the aggressors' barbous escalation. Whenever the invaders came in they were fought back, whether by day or by night. The greater their number, the bigger their defeat. While Johnson, Westmoreland, Burns and others were frantically boasting of their imaginary victories before the people of Washington and stepping up their pressure against the people of the U.S.A. with their threats, the North Vietnamese army and people downed 56 enemy planes within four days (November 17-20) and captured 100 American pilots. Hanoi, in particular, has proved worthy of being the heroic capital of a people

country. On November 17 and to its armymen and people gave a strong rebuff by downing 22 American aircraft. Hanoi has valiantly fought and kept itself alive in its continuing struggle over, it has maintained its usual activities, and has been carrying on production and technical revolution. To disperse in order to fight back and to live and to live and work in a way which fits the conditions, such as the factors contributing to the glorious feats achieved in these 20 days.

Another outstanding feature of these 20 days of splendid deeds is the performance of the North Vietnamese army in downing U.S. jets with their fire-arms in the last 10 days (November 11-21) they downed 21 American jets. In October last the platoon of old militiamen in Hoang Hoa Loc district (Thanh Hoa province) downed two aircraft out of the sky, thus opening up a new possibility for U.S. plane hunting, that fortnight they downed 10 aircraft units in Quang Ninh district (Quang Ninh province) Hoang Hoa and Ha Trung (Thanh Hoa province) and An Lao (Hai

Phong) sent three planes biting the dust. This does not include the deed of the platoon of militiamen in Hau Loc district (Thanh Hoa province) which downed one F-4 early in last month (November 3). The platoon on North Viet Nam the U.S. Air Force has met a deep hatred and determination of the entire population to break the aggressor. No wonder that the American invaders are beaten off at any time, in whatever plan and with whatever force they may have. This is why, try as they may, they cannot escape very moment at the hands of their very skillful opponents.

Another outstanding feature of those 20 days is that the Yankees are soundly beaten not only in North Viet Nam but also in South Viet Nam. The battles in Phuoc Binh and Phuoc Long and Bien Hoa provinces (November 5) of Cai Lay and Bien Hoa (November 5 and 17), of Xoai Xien and Binh An in Rach Gia province, of Da Tuong in

down another U.S. plane.

These exploits greatly inspired the Thanh Hoa people. The old militiamen of village H. Hoang Hoa Loc district, determined to emulate the militiamen of Hau Loc and Tim Gia on October 14, the platoon shot down a U.S. AD-5 type plane, hit, belched fire and plummeted into the sea.

This made great news in village H. Everyone came to see and to understand the exploit. The best dishes of fish and shrimps were brought to their platoon. The old masters and young ones drew for them the best pots of tea and plucked the fresh betel leaves and areca nuts.

The news reached the women militiamen in Hau Loc district, also in Thanh Hoa province. It rejoiced the young girls but at the same time they were shocked to see a downed U.S. plane themselves. All of them engaged in intense training, the "old hands" definitely helping the young ones to the emplacement except the old men who are addicts.

The opportunity offered on November 24, when U.S. planes came to raid over village Tim. The old militiamen had to "greet" the intruders with their pots to prevent them from seeing from a long distance, they used their trained ears of former high ranking fishermen. In the previous times, Old Te pressed his ear against the trench wall. He could tell the rush of the intruders from the plesant sound of the wind among the fir trees and the metallic drone of an enemy plane.

Over the emplacement machineguns blazed away at the intruders. The old men, too, tried to pull up but was already blazing. It limped with assistance and crashed into the sea.

Thus,

in the patriotic emulation between the old men's

and

the young ones, the old men's

■ A FLOATING BASE OF U.S. NAVY BLOWN UP, 8 LCTs AND A BIG REPAIR-SHOP VESSEL SUNK OR SET AFIRE 3 Km SOUTHEAST OF BEN TRE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL (NIGHT OF NOV. 23)

THE great battles which took place in Loc Ninh late in October spread to Da Nang and in the West and High Plateau until mid-November, *Giai Phong* Press Agency reported. Since then major engagements followed one another from the southernmost part of Trung Bo to the Nam Bo delta.

On November 17, 1967, the P.L.A.F. wiped out a military base, 250 km northeast of Saigon. This airfield lies on Highway 14, near Highway 21, which runs to the coast. A series of 3 cannons and 2 armoured cars were destroyed, 1 petrol depot set afire, 1 ammunition dump blown up, 60 enemy troops (among them 50 G.I.s) killed or wounded.

Prior to this operation, on the night of November 4, the P.L.A.F. had struck an enemy artillery position at Drang, 40 km east-northeast of Ban Me Thuot, on Highway 14 which leads to Kon Tum town. On November 5, the P.L.A.F. wiped out and 1 U.S. artillery company belonging to Battalion

1, Brigade 2, Infantry Division 4, decimated. Besides, 2 cannons, 2 armoured cars and 200 men were killed or wounded, 1 storage of 105-mm shells blown up and 1 petrol tank set ablaze.

To the south, along Highway 20, which links Dalat to Saigon, on November 13, in 3 ambushes near Diring, the P.L.A.F. knocked out 2 armoured cars, 1 platoon of "civil guards," 1 armoured troop, 1 platoon of 105-mm guns and 1 platoon of militiamen. The same day (November 13), the enemy flew 23 sorties of helicopters to land troops on Highway 20. But the people's fighters neatly wiped out 2 puppet companies of Battalion 4, Regiment 48, along with the operational headquarters of the battalion.

In particular, in the theatre of operations north of Saigon, after the battle of Loc Ninh (ending November 2), and the shelling of U.S. bases at Dau Tieng (night of November 9), Phuoc Binh, Phuoc Long (night of November 12), on the morning

of November 24, the P.L.A.F. completely wiped out puppet Battalion 2, Regiment 48, which had 700 men. It is about 35 km north-northeast of Saigon while the latter were striving to ease the pressure on Highway 16 and Tan Uyen town.

One more important engagement broke out on the night of November 2 in the Phuoc Long estuary, 30 km southeast of Ben Tre town (about 70 km southwest of Saigon). The people's fighters sank or heavily damaged 8 landing craft. Moreover,

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■ Ban Me Thuot Airfield Attacked; 27 Aircraft and 3 Cannons Destroyed (Nov. 17)

■ A Puppet Infantry Battalion Entirely Wiped Out 35 Km North-Northeast of Saigon (Nov. 24)

■ A U.S. Infantry Battalion and a U.S. Artillery Company Completely Annihilated, Another U.S. Infantry Battalion and U.S. Artillery Company Badly Mauled 90 Km Southwest of Saigon (Nov. 16 and 17)



A P.L.A.F. unit which has taken part in many attacks against U.S. airfields

ON THE THRESHOLD OF 1967 WINTER — 1968 SPRING CAMPAIGN

AT THE GATES OF SAIGON, LONG AN PEOPLE AND ARMY STRENGTHEN THEIR CONTROL OVER THE BATTLEFIELD

an operation waged by a U.S. battalion and a puppet company on October 3, in Long Hau and about 15 kilometers west of Saigon. On October 4, the People's Liberation Armed Forces violently attacked 2 puppet Commandant companies located in My Thanh Dong village, 40 kilometers west-northwest of Saigon to carry out "pacification" task. The P.L.A.F. wiped out 200 enemy troops.

The P.L.A.F. also attacked and overran the headquarters of Regiment 50, and wiped out over 30 men, most of them officers.

At Loc Giang, 45 kilometers northeast of Saigon, the P.L.A.F. wiped out or decimated 4 puppet companies and destroyed 6 armoured cars. They controlled Ben Luc town for the whole night and cooperated with 100 Long An people to search and wipe out puppet officials and cruel agents.

Within only one day, the Long An people and army killed, wounded or captured over 850 enemy troops, destroyed 12 heavy guns and 40 military vehicles.

On the night of October 15, the Long An people and army destroyed 3 armoured cars in an ambush on Highway 4 and P.L.A.F. artillery killed many enemy officers and soldiers in

a raid on the headquarters of puppet Infantry Division 25 at Due Hoa, 35 kilometers west-northwest of Saigon.

On October 16, the Long An people and army attacked again the enemy positions at the headquarters of puppet Infantry Division 25, they blew up a dozen barracks, destroyed almost all the radio installations, wiped out nearly 100 puppet officers, shot down 2 L-19 reconnaissance planes, destroyed a petrol dump and an ammunition storage.

At the same time, the people of Due Hoa township rushed up to punish cruel agents and overpower the puppet authorities.

P.L.A.F. SECOND BLOW

CARRIED forward by their successes, the P.L.A.F. continued

attacking the enemy entrenched in their bases.

On the night of October 26, the P.L.A.F. completely pounded the Giai Phong Center.

The signal centre was hit: nearly 100 U.S. officers and technicians were wiped out, its equipment and machines heavily damaged; its billets blown up. P.L.A.F. artillery also hit the signal station, wiped out nearly 100 puppet paratroop battalion station 8 km from Cho Lon city, wiping out over 40 enemy troops.

On the night of October 28, the P.L.A.F. stormed the Loc Giang position for the second time and 7 other positions on the road from Loc Giang to Hau Nghia and Trang Bang.

At Loc Giang position, 2 puppet companies and the command staff of Ranger

Battalion 34 was completely put out of action, 300 U.S. and puppet troops were wiped out in the 7 above-said positions.

All in all, the P.L.A.F. wiped out over 2,000 enemy troops including over 400 U.S. officers, technicians and artillermen. They also shot down or destroyed on the ground 18 aircraft, destroyed 18 heavy guns and over 50 military vehicles. Thus in October 1967 alone, the Long An people and army inflicted repeated defeats on the enemy near Saigon.

It was patent that the "pacification" of key areas had failed. Moreover the P.L.A.F. victories irrefutably proved that the initiative and the offensive were firmly in the hands of the Long An people and army.